cent. However, the question of retention and achievement are two components which are being now closely focussed upon in various programmes like Operation Blackboard, minimum levels of learning, establishment of DIETs and non-formal education centres.

The focus of NLM is being concentrated in the 4 States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajashan and Uttar Pradesh where bulk of the illiterate population resides. It is proposed to cover 345 districts under Total Literacy Campaigns by the end of the 8th Plan. So far, 282 districts have already been covered. A new initiative to achieve universalisation of Elementary Education has been evolved, titled 'District Primary Education Programme'. The programme takes a holistic view of primary education development and seeks to operationalise the strategy for UEE through district specific planning and disaggregate target setting. Adoption of alternative methods of schooling like voluntary schools and NFE centres for those who cannot avail of conventional full-time schooling is also aimed at accelerating the pace of spread of literacy.

Defective Mark Sheets

540. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints Government received from various schools/candidates this year regarding mark sheets of Indian School Certificate Examination conducted by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examination recognised under the Delhi Education Act;

(b) what is the number of marksheets found defective and what were the mistakes found on rechecking them;

(c) whether all the mark lists have since been verified, if so, how these mark sheets/lists were found incorrect or defective;

(d) whether an independent enquiry has been conducted by Government into large scale mistakes/irregularities in printing marklists/sheets by the council affecting hundreds of candidates;

(e) whether the officials/employees concerned have been placed under suspension pending enquiry, if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any show cause notice has been issued to council management or its active role in covering up and protecting the guilty officials/employees; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government have not received any complaint from the schools/candidates regarding mark sheets issued by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) in respect of examinations conducted by it in 1994.

(b) and (c) The CISCE has informed that as per the usual practice followed by the Council, the mark sheets in respect of 1994 examinations were verified and mistakes wherever detected were rectified.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Recognition of Foreigner's Degrees

541. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the controversy about the recognition or otherwise of the law degrees of foreigners who want to practice in India; and

(b) whether Government propose to take clear position that it would recognise the law medical and other degrees only of such countries which recognise our degrees?